

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A wheel end assembly having a high temperature warning system comprising,
 - an air pressure supply,
 - a normally closed valve connected between the inside and outside of said pressure supply,
 - a heat sensitive control connected to and actuating said valve upon a predetermined temperature,
 - said control mounted adjacent to said wheel end assembly for measuring the temperature of the assembly, and
 - a warning system connected to the pressure supply for actuation upon opening of the valve.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the heat sensitive control includes a heat sensitive pressure barrier.
3. The system of claim 2 wherein the heat sensitive barrier is a fusible plug.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein the plug includes an eutectic alloy.
5. The system of claim 1 wherein the air pressure supply includes a hollow wheel axle closed at its ends with a plug.
6. The system of claim 5 wherein the heat sensitive pressure barrier is positioned in each plug.
7. The system of claim 5 wherein one or more heat sensitive pressure barriers are positioned in the axle adjacent bearings or brakes in the wheel end assembly.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the air pressure supply includes tubing positioned in a wheel axle and connected to one or more heat sensitive pressure barriers.
9. The system of claim 8 wherein the wheel end assembly includes wheel bearings and brakes and said heat sensitive pressure barriers are positioned adjacent said wheel bearings and brakes.
10. The system of claim 1 wherein the air pressure supply includes an automatic tire inflation system for providing air to a rotating tire on a wheel hub mounted on bearings on a hollow axle connected to the air pressure supply for receiving air, and a rotary connection between the tire and the axle.
11. In a vehicle having an automatic tire inflation system for providing air to a rotating tire on a wheel hub mounted on bearings on a hollow axle connected to an air pressure supply for supplying air to the inside of the axle, a rotary connection in communication between the tire and air inside of the axle, the combination of a high temperature warning system comprising,
 - a normally closed valve connected between the inside and the outside of the axle in connection with the air in the axle,
 - a heat sensitive control connected to and actuating said valve open upon a predetermined temperature,
 - said control mounted adjacent said wheel assemblies for measuring the temperature of the wheel hub, and
 - a warning system connected to the air supply for actuation upon opening of the valve.
12. The system of claim 11 wherein the hollow axle is closed at the ends with a plug and heat sensitive control includes a heat sensitive pressure barrier positioned in each plug.

13. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the heat sensitive control includes one or more heat sensitive pressure barriers positioned in the axle adjacent bearings or brakes in the wheel assembly.
14. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the air pressure supply includes tubing positioned in the axle and connected to one or more heat sensitive pressure barriers.
15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the pressure barriers are positioned adjacent said wheel bearings and brakes.
16. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein a pressure barrier is positioned in each end of the hollow axle.